

Message Text

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43

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FM AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8664

AMCONSUL MARTINIQUE

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT PINS ELAB DO

SUBJ: DOMINICAN PREMIER WARNS CIVIL SERVICE HIS GOVERNMENT WILL
EXERCISE DISCIPLINE

REF: BTN A-002 JANUARY 8, 1975 (NOTAL)

1. ACCORDING TO A NEWS SERVICE REPORT, DOMINICAN PREMIER PATRICK R. JOHN, SPEAKING TO AN ISLAND-WIDE TEACHERS RALLY ON APRIL 2, STERNLY WARNED CIVIL SERVANTS THAT HIS GOVERNMENT WILL EXERCISE STRICT DISCIPLINE. HE CALLED UPON CIVIL SERVANTS TO SHOW DETERMINATION IN WORKING FOR THE ECONOMIC, SOCIAL, AND CULTURAL ADVANCEMENT OF DOMINICA. JOHN NOTED THAT "THE EFFICIENCY OF THE STATE DEPENDS UPON THE CHARACTER, METHODS, AND ATTITUDES OF PUBLIC SERVANTS." HE ADDED THAT "TEACHERS AND CIVIL SERVANTS SHOULD CARRY OUT WITH IMPARTIALITY THE WISHES OF WHATEVER GOVERNMENT IS IN POWER." REFERRING TO THE FIVE-YEAR MANDATE THE PEOPLE OF DOMINICA RECENTLY GAVE HIS DOMINICA LABOUR PARTY, JOHN SAID THAT HE EXPECTED PUBLIC SERVANTS TO CARRY OUT "THEIR DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES WITHOUT OBSTRUCTION AND/OR SABOTAGE AND WITH DUE REGARD TO THE RIGHTS OF THE INDIVIDUAL CITIZEN." VOWING TO INCREASE GOVERNMENT'S PRODUCTIVITY, JOHN PLEDGED "IT IS GOING TO BE THE CONSTANT PREOCCUPATION AND CONCERN OF MY GOVERNMENT TO SEE THAT EFFICIENCY, SINCERITY, AND
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LOYALTY OF THE CIVIL SERVICE IS RESTORED." HE ADDED THAT THERE

WILL BE DISCIPLINE AT ALL LEVELS IN HIS GOVERNMENT AND, FROM NOW ON, THE HIGHEST AS WELL AS THE LOWEST EMPLOYEES OF THE GOVERNMENT WILL BE DISCIPLINED FOR LACK OF PUNCTUALITY AND ABSENTEEISM.

2. COMMENT: JOHN'S SPEECH MAY WELL BE THE OPENING SHOT IN A RENEWED EFFORT TO REMOVE FROM THE CIVIL SERVICE INDIVIDUALS REGARDED AS SUBVERSIVE SUCH AS JULIAN JOHNSON, A MEMBER OF THE REVOLUTIONARY-MINDED MOVEMENT FOR A NEW DOMINICA. THE GOD ON DECEMBER 6, 1974 PASSED SEVERAL AMENDMENTS TO THE "DREADS ACT" WHICH FACILITATED THE REMOVAL OF CIVIL SERVANTS FOUND GUILTY OF BEING A MEMBER OF AN UNLAWFUL SOCIETY, OF AIDING AND ABETTING MEMBERS OF SUCH A SOCIETY, OR OF DIRECTING ITS ACTIVITIES. UNDER THIS LAW, THE GOD, EARLY IN 1975, SEPARATED MND CO-ORDINATING SECRETARY AURELIUS JOLLY FROM THE CIVIL SERVICE. IN ADDITION, THE EMBASSY HAS RECENTLY RECEIVED REPORTS THAT JOHN MAY MOVE TO DIVEST THE DOMINICA CIVIL SERVICE ASSOCIATION OF OFFICIAL RECOGNITION AS THE UNION FOR CIVIL SERVANTS ON THE GROUNDS THAT THE DCSA IS A POLITICAL ORGANIZATION SINCE DCSA GENERAL SECRETARY CHARLES A. SAVARIN RAN AS AN INDEPENDENT CANDIDATE FOR A HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY SEAT IN THE RECENT MARCH 24 GENERAL ELECTIONS. IF PREMIER JOHN LEANS TOO HARD ON THE CIVIL SERVANTS, THE OUTCOME COULD BE ANOTHER CIVIL SERVICE STRIKE LIKE THE ONE WHICH OCCURRED IN SUMMER 1973 AND RESULTED IN THE THEN PREMIER LEBLANC'S HAVING TO EXTEND THE EXISTING STATE OF EMERGENCY.
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